

Serbian III

SERB 3003 (3 credits / 45 hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:
Serbia, Bosnia, and Kosovo: Peace
and Conflict Studies in the Balkans

PLEASE NOTE: This syllabus represents a recent semester. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.

Course Objectives

- To gain strong proficiency in spoken Serbian/Croatian/Bosnian
- To use the language confidently and effectively in everyday situations, as well as within the context of the demands of the Independent Study Project.
- To expand reading comprehension to the extent of reading texts in standard BCS
- To get familiar and understand the culture in which language is used

Grammatical Content

Please note: grammatical content will be modified depending on specific needs of students.

- Perfect/imperfect verbs; relation between aspect and tenses
- Aorist tense
- Participles; past and present verbal adverbs
- Existential and subjectless sentences; sentences with logical subject
- Relative clauses
- Passive voice
- Word order; clitic placement

Topics:

- Reading texts in standard language
- Understanding metaphorical meanings of already familiar words
- Expressing opinion on complex topics that require strong argumentation
- Understanding proverbs, sayings, and jokes

Course Schedule

*Please be aware that topics and excursions may vary to take advantage of any emerging events, to accommodate changes in our lecturers' availability, and to respect any changes that would affect student safety. Students will be notified if this occurs.

Week 1:

Introduction: Slavic languages as part of Indo-European language family; Cyril and Methodius mission to the Slavs (9th century); B/H/S in Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian empire; the history of standardization of the language in Serbia, Bosnia and Croatia, Vienna Literary Agreement (1850) and the creation of Serbo-Croatian language; discuss socio-linguistic questions of the region of the former Yugoslavia.

Week 2:

Cyrilic script - comprehensive reading and writing of larger amount of text
Text about origin of certain traditional customs in the region
Discussion topic: Traditions, customs, beliefs in this part of the world

Week 3:

Meša Selimović, "Tvrđava" – excerpt; the best quotes about an unconditional love
Reading, comprehension, and discussion about the material

Week 4:

Aleksandar Hemon, "Potomstvo po prvi put u Sarajevu"
Discuss the topic of returning to the place of birth after war: a phenomenon experienced by Hemon and many other writers from former Yugoslavia who live, write, and publish abroad
Ijekavian vs. ekavian version of BHS

Week 5: BiH excursion

Writing a diary while on excursion (written assignment 1)

Week 6:

Discussion topic: impressions from Bosnia
Aleksandar Hemon, „Izveštaj o posjeti Potomstva Sarajevu“
Second part of the same story, after the study visit to Bosnia

Week 7:

Discussion topic: village, suburb, or a city center?
Which space provides the quality of life?
Differences between different countries – living in the countryside in US and in the Balkans

Week 8: Kosovo excursion (written assignment 2)

Writing a diary while on excursion

Week 9:

Phrases and proverbs, equivalent proverbs in English language
Exercise in translation from B/H/S to English

Week 10:

Discussion topic: overall impressions from the Balkans and plans for ISP
Written exam – essay/composition

Weeks 11-14: ISP

Suggesting readings of B/H/S literature, depending on chosen ISP location and interest

Week 15: Oral exam

Course Requirements

Students are required to attend the course regularly, to participate in classroom activities and discussions, and to complete all homework.

Student Evaluation and Grading Criteria

Student Assessment

Students receive feedback from the instructors throughout the course. The language instructor and the Academic Director assign final grades jointly. Evaluation is a reflection of the student's proficiency, participation, engagement, and progress through the weeks of language instruction and during the remaining weeks of the course.

Requirements and expectations of students for successful completion of the course include:

Final written exam	30%
Post ISP oral exam	40%
Written assignment 1	15%
Written assignment 2	15%

Grading Scales and Criteria

Grades are given both fairly and rigorously and in accordance with the system below. They will reflect a combination of absolute quality of performance, progress made, the ability to take into account and assimilate the Academic Director's and the teachers' advice in assessing the work done. An "A" letter grade reflects exceptional work, perfect combination of academic competences and personal research and engagement. In terms of class participation, an "A" grade refers to full attendance, punctuality, attentive listening and active engagement in all language class activities. A "B" letter grade reflects serious and methodical work as well as a substantial effort at achieving excellence in language. A "C" letter grade shows that work meets the requirements but needs more in-depth reflection and personal involvement. A "D" letter grade is insufficient and clearly reflects lack of work or serious deficiencies.

The grading scale for all classes is as follows:

94-100%	A
90-93%	A-
87-89%	B+
84-86%	B
80-83%	B-
77-79%	C+
74-76%	C
70-73%	C-

67-69%	D+
64-66%	D
Below 64%	F

Please Note: Course contents, lecturers, and readings may be modified as needed. Should any change of class topics or lecturers may be necessary, student will be promptly notified.

Academic Policies: SIT prides itself on providing students with an experientially based program; we hold ourselves, and our students, to the highest of academic standards. Students are asked to refer to the **SIT Study Abroad Handbook** for policies on academic integrity, ethics, academic warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment and the academic appeals process.

Disability Services: Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Disability Services at disabilityservices@sit.edu for information and support in facilitating an accessible educational experience. Additional information regarding SIT Disability Services, including a link to the online request form, can be found on the Disability Services website at <http://studyabroad.sit.edu/disabilityservices>.